

EXHIBIT 24



McNew Medical Center - Involuntary Admission Procedure

Scope

J. Kent McNew Family Medical Center (MMC) Inpatient Mental Health Unit

Purpose

None

Definitions

None

Policy Statements & Procedures

Policy:

It is the practice of the MMC to follow the legal regulations regarding involuntary patient admissions.

Procedures:

1. A patient can be admitted involuntarily under the following conditions:
 - a. The individual has a mental disorder;
 - b. The individual needs inpatient care or treatment;
 - c. The individual presents a danger to the life or safety of the individual or of others;
 - d. The individual is unable or unwilling to be admitted voluntarily;
 - e. And there is no available, less restrictive form of intervention that is consistent with the welfare and safety of the individual.
2. Involuntary admission (IVA) patients that arrive at the inpatient unit are to have two (2) certificates for Involuntary Admission Status that are signed by:

- a. Two physicians;
 - b. One physician and one psychologist; or
 - c. One physician and one psychiatric nurse practitioner.
3. The certificates may not be used for the IVA of an individual if the examination on which the certificate is based was done more than 1 week before the certificate is signed.
4. Upon admission, the patient is to receive:
 - a. Notice of Status and Rights form within 12 hours
 - b. An explanation of the form in the language and terms that are appropriate to the individual's condition and ability to understand.
5. The Notice of Status and Rights form is to be faxed to the Public Defender within 24 hours of admission.
6. Copies of the Notice of Status and Rights form are to be given to the individual's parent, guardian, or next of kin when possible and filed in the medical record.
7. If the individual does not understand the notice, a copy of the Notice is to be given to:
 - a. Parent, guardian, or next of kin;
 - b. The applicant for IVA; and
 - c. Any other person who has significant interest in the status of the individual.
8. Administrative Hearings for IVA patients are conducted within ten (10) days.
9. A safe room is provided for the purpose of the hearing and contains a speaker phone.
10. A staff person remains with the patient to help ensure safety.
11. A Social Worker attends the hearing and presents the case.
12. A Physician who has examined the patient within 24 hours before the hearing provides testimony at the hearing either in person or by phone.
13. At the hearing, the patient has the right to:
 - a. Be represented by counsel;
 - b. Present witnesses;
 - c. Cross-examine witnesses presented by the other party;
 - d. Present documentary or other relevant evidence;
 - e. Submit rebuttal evidence; and
 - f. Present summation and argument.
14. The patient may also waive their right to attend the hearing if the decision to do so is:
 - a. Knowingly and intelligently made;
 - b. Witnessed by the individual's counsel; and
 - c. Witnessed by the ALJ.

15. The Administrative Law Judge (Hearing Officer) will rule on whether the patient requires continued involuntary treatment or may be discharged.

Note: After the patient has been given the opportunity to leave the inpatient facility, the treating physician, psychologist, or psychiatric nurse practitioner may file a petition for emergency evaluation as the means of initiating an emergency psychiatric evaluation if so warranted.

References

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Cross References

None

Approval Date

Mental Health & Substance Use Quality Council - 06/2020

Owner

Mental Health and Substance Use Division